Appl. No. 09/940,431
Amendment dated February 14, 2005
Reply to Office Action of October 14, 2004

NIT-297

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-21. (Canceled)

22. (New) An electronic mail management method comprising the steps of:

receiving an electronic mail sent from an electronic mail sending source

terminal to an electronic mail destination terminal through a first communication

means;

storing said electronic mail received; and

posting a presence of an unopened electronic mail to a communication

terminal that is different from said electronic mail sending source terminal through a

second communication means which is different from said first communication

means, when an open notification of said stored mail is not received from said

electronic mail destination terminal within a predetermined time.

23. (New) An electronic mail management method according to claim 22,

further comprising the step of:

posting the presence of said unopened electronic mail to said electronic mail

sending source terminal if, after the posting of the presence of said unopened

electronic mail to said communication terminal through said second communication

means, an open notification is not received from said communication terminal within

a predetermined time.

24. (New) The electronic mail management method according to claim 22,

wherein a time zone is predetermined where the posting of the presence of the

unopened electronic mail to said communication terminal cannot be performed.

25. (New) The electronic mail management method according to claim 23,

wherein contents of the posting are made to differ according to whether the

destination of the posting of the unopened electronic mail is the communication

terminal or the electronic mail sending source terminal.

26. (New) An electronic mail management method, comprising the steps of:

setting a combination of a sending source mail address, a receiving mail

address, and an unopened time limit in an unopened notification condition master;

and

posting to a sender of electronic mail by a preset means that the electronic

mail sent is unopened when the electronic mail sent from the sending source mail

address set in the unopened notification condition master to the receiving mail

address is unopened for a period of time exceeding the unopened time limit,

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wherein an electronic mail sending source can refer to information of the

unopened time limit that is set to be posted to the sending source by specifying the

sending source mail address set in the unopened notification condition master.

27. (New) The electronic mail management method according to claim 26,

wherein contents of modifications are validated under approval of the corresponding

sending source when a record set in the unopened notification condition master is

added, modified or deleted,

28. (New) The electronic mail management method according to claim 27,

wherein effect of the modifications is automatically posted to the corresponding

sending source when the record set in the unopened notification condition master is

added, modified or deleted.

29. (New) The electronic mail management method according to claim 26,

wherein charging to the user is performed in accordance with setting items to the

unopened notification condition master.

30. (New) The electronic mail management method according to claim 27,

wherein charging to the user is performed in accordance with setting items to the

unopened notification condition master.

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31. (New) The electronic mail management method according to claim 28, wherein charging to the user is performed in accordance with setting items to the unopened notification condition master.

32. (New) The electronic mail management method according to claim 22, wherein charging to the user is performed in accordance with setting items to the unopened notification condition master.

33. (New) The electronic mail management method according to claim 23, wherein information on a number of received mail items that is an unopened notification management object for each recipient and a number of received mail items for which the unopened notification is performed to the mail sending source among the received mail items is held and provided as a mail management information of the recipient.

34. (New) The electronic mail management method according to claim 24, wherein information on a number of received mail items that is an unopened notification management object for each recipient and a number of received mail items for which the unopened notification is performed to the mail sending source among the received mail items is held and provided as a mail management information of the recipient.

35. (New) The electronic mail management method according to claim 25,
wherein information on a number of received mail items that is an unopened
notification management object for each recipient and a number of received mail
items for which the unopened notification is performed to the mail sending source
among the received mail items is held and provided as a mail management
information of the recipient.

36. (New) The electronic mail management method according to claim 26,
wherein information on a number of received mail items that is an unopened
notification management object for each recipient and a number of received mail
items for which the unopened notification is performed to the mail sending source
among the received mail items is held and provided as a mail management
information of the recipient.

37. (New) The electronic mail management method according to claim 27,
wherein information on a number of received mail items that is an unopened
notification management object for each recipient and a number of received mail
items for which the unopened notification is performed to the mail sending source
among the received mail items is held and provided as a mail management
information of the recipient.

38. (New) The electronic mail management method according to claim 28,

wherein information on a number of received mail items that is an unopened

notification management object for each recipient and a number of received mail

items for which the unopened notification is performed to the mail sending source

among the received mail items is held and provided as a mail management

information of the recipient.

39. (New) The electronic mail management method according to claim 29,

wherein information on a number of received mail items that is an unopened

notification management object for each recipient and a number of received mail

items for which the unopened notification is performed to the mail sending source

among the received mail items is held and provided as a mail management

information of the recipient.

40. (New) An electronic mail management system comprising:

a receiving unit for receiving an electronic mail sent from an electronic mail

sending source terminal to an electronic mail destination terminal through a first

communication means;

a storing unit for storing said electronic mail received; and

a posting unit for posting a presence of an unopened electronic mail to a

communication terminal which is different from said electronic mail sending source

terminal through second communication means which is different from said first

communication means, when an open notification of said stored mail is not received

from said electronic mail destination terminal within a predetermined time.

41. (New) The electronic mail management system according to claim 40,

wherein said posting unit posts the presence of said unopened electronic mail to said

electronic mail sending source terminal if, after the posting of the presence of said

unopened electronic mail to said communication terminal through said second

communication means, an open notification is not received from said communication

terminal within a predetermined time.

42. (New) The electronic mail management system according to claim 40,

wherein a time zone is predetermined where the posting of the presence of the

unopened electronic mail to said communication terminal cannot be performed..

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